

Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

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Editorial

Cost Too Much

A young lady of Boston married a titled foreigner, and found afterward that her wealthy father had paid the nobleman a large sum to get him to marry his daughter. The mercenary father and husband both merit infinite contempt, but the high spirited girl, repudiating a bargain where vulgar money took the place of sacred love, lives by her own labor rather than enjoy the luxuries of wealth at the price of self respect. Many a fortune, many a palace, has cost its possessor infinitely more than it is worth.

Dangerous

Dr. Basso of Turin University, Italy, died from infection contracted while cultivating bacilli of various diseases. A Vienna scientist recently incurred the same penalty of his dangerous investigations, dying with the Bubonic plague, the microbes of which he was cultivating in his laboratory. These men fell victims to the honorable desire of ameliorating some of the woes of humanity, but their fate also points a moral in that it shows how dangerous is even the most guarded familiarity with anything that is evil.

Chewing Gum Epidemic

An exchange remarks that the chewing gum epidemic, which seemed to be under control for a season or two, appears to have broken out again with renewed virulence. Half the chorus girls who blossom forth on Broadway these afternoons are violently chewing the cud of sweet and bitter fancy as if their existence depended on the regularity with which they masticated the evidently agreeable mouthful. Next to the filthy tobacco habit the habit of chewing gum is perhaps the most nasty.

A New Fad

Paris has a new fad—the hypodermic injection of perfume. A French actress is the author of this idea, and it is said that she exhales the breath of different flowers every day in the week, or did until a physician told her that it was a dangerous habit, as unless the perfume was absolutely pure it might cause blood poisoning. What the fashionables will not do to enhance their personal pleasures or their personal charms isn't a plenty, but this idea of exhaling from every pore of the body the sweet breath of interjected perfumes points a valuable moral. It illustrates the science of piety, the true idea

and explanation of a godly life, and of that high usefulness and sanctity which flows from a heart saturated with the Holy Spirit. Inject the delicate perfume of holiness, of love, of sincerity, of earnest zeal, of godliness into the heart, and see how it will exhale the sweet incense of praise, and emit the lovely light of spiritual beauty.

What He Did

A Chicago paper tells the story of a man who became prominent by always keeping in the background when anything was to be done, so that he could criticise those who did do it. And that is the way more than one church member becomes prominent, that is prominent as a fault finder or grumbler. We fear there are most as many who have won fame for criticising those who are engaged in good works as there are workers, and perhaps more, for a whole dozen may criticise one worker. The fault finders and grumblers are a large army in our churches. It may require some effort to do a good work, but to find fault with the one who does it does not require very much brain and but very little ingenuity. Brother, are you a worker or do you sit as a critic over the one who does the work.

One Secret Flaw

A secret flaw in the axle of a passenger engine caused a wreck on one of the northern railroads last week which might have been as destructive as it was dangerous. For a long time experts had examined that engine daily, but none of them had ever detected the flaw. The constant hammering of use, however, finally completed the fracture, and the mighty engine crashed into a heap of twisted iron. It is thus that a secret flaw in character will finally give way to the stress and strain of life, the daily hammering of temptation, until the sudden wreck reveals the long hidden but fatal weakness. "Search me, and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

A Distinguished Saloonist

The celebrated Bishop Potter of New York says that saloons are necessary. Doubtless this high church dignitary viewing the subject from his spiritual elevation might be able to tell us on what grounds the saloon is necessary, and for what purpose. Is it a part of the kingdom of righteousness? Is it an aid in the salvation of souls? Is it a good institution for the education of our

youth? Does it conserve piety, purity and spirituality? Does it make good citizens, sober fathers and husbands, happy wives and children? Is it an element of moral and material prosperity? Does it contribute to the commonwealth? Is it a divine institution? Surely the great Bishop could tell us something that it is good for, or furnish at least one reason why it is necessary. This pastor of New York millionaires and fashionableness is hardly competent to decide upon the moral value of the saloon. Nevertheless he represents just the reason why the saloon flourishes, namely the connivance of so-called Christians. We gravely suspect that the poison of the secret wine cup is at the bottom of much of this ecclesiastical tolerance of the saloon. The abomination of desolation is standing in holy places.

Not Much Difference

It is stated that the Pope will proclaim plenary indulgence to all pilgrims to the tombs of St. Peter and St. Paul during the present year. This "plenary indulgence" used to mean license to commit any favorite sin, no matter how black or abominable, provided the price came cash down. Protestant civilization has made it impossible to go to the same length now, but the principle of this wickedness remains the same, and the papal indulgence is sufficiently liberal to be exceedingly attractive to unregenerate human nature. The secret of the whole business is that Peter's pence is running far behind, and the scheme is expected to fill the papal coffers. It doesn't differ much from the modern church festival where gluttony, extortion and auction kissing are resorted to in order to raise money for the Lord.

Preparing for Defense

China is enlisting a large number of men in her army, and putting into their hands modern rifles. Some time ago, General Wolseley, commander in chief of Brittan's armies, published a pamphlet on China, in which he stated that Mongolian armies, once properly armed and drilled, might easily over-run the world. Until now this vast power has been quiescent, but the greedy aggression of the European powers, who are grabbing Chinese territory, has roused the yellow Dragon to anger and resistance. Sin brings its own punishment, and it would not be surprising if the next century would see the western powers vainly endeavoring to resist the Asiatic inundation which their own acts provoked.